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1 SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The 2012 drought has caused a significant impact
3 on water levels on the Missouri and Mississippi Rivers; and

4 WHEREAS, In normal years, the Missouri River contributes
5 60% of the Mississippi River's flow south of St. Louis; the
6 river currently contributes 78% of the flow; and

7 WHEREAS, The United States Army Corps of Engineers has
8 stopped the release of water from upper Missouri River
9 reservoirs, which has negatively impacted water levels on the
10 Mississippi River; and

11 WHEREAS, With the continuing and projected lack of adequate
12 precipitation, in combination with reduced flow, barge traffic
13 restrictions or even the closure of the Mississippi River
14 channel are imminent; and

15 WHEREAS, The Illinois and Midwest economies depend on the
16 efficient shipment of grain, fertilizer, and other commodities
17 on the Mississippi River; and

18 WHEREAS, The President of the United States has the
19 authority to declare an emergency; therefore, be it

1 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-SEVENTH GENERAL
2 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
3 CONCURRING HEREIN, that we urge the President to take emergency
4 action to ensure water levels do not fall below a level needed
5 by commercial navigation on the Mississippi River; and be it
6 further

7 RESOLVED, That we urge the Administration to direct the
8 Army Corps of Engineers to avert potential economic disaster on
9 this vital avenue that American farmers use to get their goods
10 into the world market; and be it further

11 RESOLVED, That we urge the Army Corps of Engineers to
12 expedite and fully implement alternative emergency measures to
13 remedy this situation, including the dredging and removal of
14 rock pinnacles in the Mississippi River south of St. Louis; and
15 be it further

16 RESOLVED, That we further urge the Army Corps of Engineers
17 to deviate from planned operations outlined in the Missouri
18 River Master Water Control Manual and exercise its authority to
19 address situations when circumstances justify deviation from
20 the plan; and be it further

21 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be
22 delivered to President Barack Obama, the U.S. Army Corps of

1 Engineers, each member of the Illinois Congressional
2 Delegation, and Governor Pat Quinn.